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Executive Registry

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8 DEC 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence  
Deputy Director for Plans  
Deputy Director for Science and Technology  
Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT : Future Plans for the CIA Historical Program

1. The publication of nineteen histories from 1 July to 30 November of this year brings the total number of histories published or completed in draft and in final processing for publication to about ninety percent of the histories now scheduled in the catching-up program. This progress has been achieved in part by the cancellation of some fifty-five histories which were inactive for the lack of writers or other reasons. All of the scheduled DDS histories have now been published or are in draft and close to publication. Completion of the catching-up phase is also within sight in the other three directorates.

2. Looking to the future, I have requested the Chief of the Historical Staff to develop a smaller program which would de-emphasize component or station history and focus instead on situations in which the Agency has provided significant support to U.S. policy or other topical subjects involving major support to intelligence programs. A list of proposed topics is attached for your consideration. May I invite others?

3. It is my thought that by a more compact program, oriented in large part toward actions with which the Agency has been publicly identified, we can reduce the personnel drain on the directorates, minimize dependence on contract annuitants, and use as writers, the historians now assigned to the Historical Staff, together with other persons detailed to the Staff for limited periods of time to write on particular topics for which they are qualified by their own experience. This might also put us in a better position to respond to pressures that might develop as the result of Executive Order 11652. I believe we can anticipate increasing numbers of requests for documents of COI and OSS that have passed the magic thirty-year mark as well as requests for mandatory review of ten-year-old documents.

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4. I will be discussing this subject with you at an early meeting, at which time I shall welcome your thoughts on the proposed topics as well as on ways to staff this program within our means.

/s/ W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby  
Executive Director-Comptroller

Attachment

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